

# Annual Report

Death with Dignity **NATIONAL CENTER & POLITICAL FUND**

**2017**



PLANTING SEEDS, NURTURING LEADERS,  
GROWING THE MOVEMENT

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Death with Dignity National Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation whose mission it is to promote Death with Dignity laws based on the model Oregon Death with Dignity Act, both to provide an option for dying individuals and to stimulate nationwide improvements in end-of-life care.

Death with Dignity Political Fund is a 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization that acts as the political arm of the National Center, drafting Death with Dignity laws; campaigning, lobbying, and advocating for Death with Dignity legislation in the 45 states that lack it; and defending assisted dying statutes against legal challenges.

We authored, passed, and defended the Oregon law (1994/1997/2006); spearheaded the successful efforts to pass Death with Dignity statutes in Washington (2008), Vermont (2013), California (2015), and D.C. (2016); and led the Maine (2000/2017), Hawai'i (2002/2017), Nevada (2015/2017) and Massachusetts (2012) campaigns.

## DEATH WITH DIGNITY NATIONAL CENTER DEATH WITH DIGNITY POLITICAL FUND



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## Remembering Our Roots, Growing the Movement



As you dig into this year's *Annual Report*, you will see that our momentum has never been greater. Now more than ever, Death with Dignity is well positioned to define, defend, and grow the movement for end-of-life choice.

### Our Vision

We are ever closer to the day when all Americans have the option to die with dignity. To realize this ambitious goal, we launched the Dignity50 program, whose unique state leadership incubator provides technical assistance and strategic guidance to grassroots activists seeking to achieve end-of-life policy reform in their states. Through education tools and seed funding, we help participants develop their organizations and advocate for Death with Dignity legislation. Read more about Dignity50 on page 6.

### 20 Years of Death with Dignity

As we look to the future, we recognize the landmark victories that laid the groundwork for our movement. This November marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of implementation of the Oregon Death with Dignity Act, which gave terminally ill

individuals the legal right to hasten their death in a humane and dignified manner. Years in the making, the groundbreaking victory required patience, persistence, and political savvy. I was honored to work alongside the dedicated leaders who helped secure the law's passage and successfully defended it from subsequent challenges. The groundbreaking Oregon law continues to provide data we need to pass similar laws around the country. Read more about our historic victory on page 10.

### A Passionate Advocate Joins Our Board of Directors

We are excited to announce that Deborah Ziegler, mother of Brittany Maynard, will be joining our board. Deborah's voice and passion have advanced on a national scale the conversation about physician-assisted death that Brittany began.

Thank you for your support and commitment to Death with Dignity. Together, we are sowing the seeds of change.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George Eighmey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

George Eighmey, JD  
President, Board of Directors

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# Branching Out: The 2016–2017 Year in Review

## Victory in D.C.: Two years in the making

In February 2017, we celebrated as Washington, D.C. became the 6<sup>th</sup> jurisdiction in the U.S. to enact Death with Dignity legislation. As is common in our campaigns, our work in D.C. began years earlier.

Beginning in January 2015, our team worked with the bill sponsor, Councilmember Mary Cheh, to move the bill forward. We engaged our constituents to encourage their Councilmembers and Mayor to support the bill; sponsored ads and petitions; commissioned a poll, which showed 67 percent of D.C. residents supported the law; provided expert

testimony at a public hearing; worked with Councilmembers to provide them with facts for making an informed decision; and helped secure *Washington Post* endorsements for the bill.

After years of steady work, our efforts bore fruit: in late 2016, the D.C. Council voted twice to pass the Death with Dignity Act, and Mayor Bowser signed the bill shortly thereafter. We battled Congress in its ultimately unsuccessful attempt to override the new law. The Act went into effect on February 18, 2017.

Our victory would not have been possible without the tireless work of our advocates, who persuaded



*Death with Dignity staff with D.C. Councilmember Mary Cheh (center).*

politicians to support the Act. But our work is not over. After failing to stop the law in the review process, opponents in Congress vowed to eliminate funding for its implementation. We will stand strong with the Councilmembers and our advocates to defend the bill and ensure physician-assisted dying remains legal for all D.C. residents.

## Colorado Voters Pass End of Life Options Act

On November 8, 2016, Colorado voters passed the End of Life Option Act by an overwhelming 2-to-1 margin. The victory came 22 years to the day after Oregon voters approved the nation's first Death with Dignity law.

We produced a radio ad featuring our new board member Deborah Ziegler, who beautifully articulated the case for Death with Dignity. The ad, running in the state's rural markets to bolster support there, struck a chord with voters and contributed to the decisive vote in favor of assisted dying legislation.

## California Begins Implementation

On June 9, 2016, California's End of Life Option Act went into effect, giving nearly 40 million people access to medical aid in

dying. Our dedicated website, [CaliforniaDeathwithDignity.org](http://CaliforniaDeathwithDignity.org) provides resources to patients and medical providers about how to navigate the law. We began developing a volunteer-based direct service program to offer qualified dying individuals who seek to use the new law a place to turn to for information and resources.

While we cheered the denial in August 2016 of an injunction, filed by anti-choice doctors seeking to undermine the End of Life Option Act, we anticipated the possibility their lawsuit would be allowed to proceed.

## Momentum in Hawai'i, Maine, and Nevada

In 2016, more than half the states introduced Death with Dignity legislation; in the 2017 session, that number increased to 30.

We bolstered our partnerships with local organizations and amplified the voices of advocates. In Maine, we partnered with Valerie Lovelace and her nonprofit It's My Death. We continued our collaboration with the Hawai'i Death with Dignity Society. In Nevada, we worked with State Senator David Parks, our lobbying team, and individual advocates to secure passage of an Oregon-modeled bill in the Nevada Senate. ■

To learn more about our accomplishments, visit our website  
[www.DeathWithDignity.org](http://www.DeathWithDignity.org).

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# Planting Seeds: Dignity50 and a New State Leadership Incubator

The unprecedented growth of the Death with Dignity movement nationwide and our increased presence in states across the country underscore the need for a strategic approach to sustain multiple parallel efforts. We recognize we need to support the lawmakers and grassroots advocates who together realize long-term change.

Since the beginning of our movement, we have focused on empowering local leaders to found and grow organizations to promote Death with Dignity legislation in their respective states. To that end, we launched the State Leadership

Incubator, as part of the new nationwide advocacy program Dignity50.

## Legislative Connections

Our past campaigns showed us that developing relationships with legislators is one key to achieving policy reform. While no two states are the same, some strategies and best practices are broadly applicable. As part of Dignity50, we facilitate the exchange of information between state legislators seeking to pass legislation modeled on the Oregon Death with Dignity Act. Last December, we hosted a legislative

*“This has been a phenomenal opportunity for our young organization to learn from the experts. We’ve also appreciated meeting people from other organizations.”*

—LISA VIGIL SCHATTINGER, OHIO END OF LIFE OPTIONS

roundtable conference call with California State Senate Majority Leader Bill Monning, a sponsor of the successful End of Life Option Act, and legislative sponsors from several states. We will continue to build this network of elected officials who share the common goal of making Death with Dignity available to their constituents.

## Fostering Local Efforts

Every successful grassroots organization relies on two components to succeed: expert strategic advice and seed funding. The Incubator provides both, as a comprehensive technical assistance program offering a how-to kit for aspiring activists, including

- online trainings focused on grassroots advocacy basics, messaging and communication, and field organizing;

- articles, recordings, slideshows, videos, and other resources;
- mini-grants providing funding for building organizational infrastructure; and
- one-on-one consultations with our in-house experts.

The pilot group of advocates from eight states completed a series of online trainings and are integrating the knowledge gained into their nascent organizations.

## Support the Incubator

As we complete the program's pilot phase, we will be expanding the program to additional communities.

If you would like to join the program or financially support it, please email [pkorchnak@deathwithdignity.org](mailto:pkorchnak@deathwithdignity.org) or call 503.501.2461. ■

*“The program has been invaluable by giving me access to successful role models. It’s been encouraging to see that hard work and tireless effort have made all the difference in getting medical aid in dying laws enacted.”*

—EDMUND TIRYAKIAN, DYING RIGHT NORTH CAROLINA

# Counting the Beans: Our 2016–2017 Finances\*

## Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 298,753	\$ 241,128
Prepaid expenses	\$ 13,508	\$ 4,879
Investments	\$ 208,534	\$ 167,503
Property and equipment, net	\$ 12,169	\$ 17,609
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 532,964</b>	<b>\$ 431,119</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 45,086	\$ 56,424
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$ 45,086</b>	<b>\$ 56,424</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Unrestricted net assets:		
Undesignated	\$ 408,854	\$ 299,027
Board designated	\$ 62,577	\$ 56,261
Property and equipment, net	\$ 12,169	\$ 17,609
Total unrestricted net assets	\$ 483,600	\$ 372,897
Temporarily restricted net assets	\$ 4,278	\$ 1,798
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 487,878</b>	<b>\$ 374,695</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 532,964</b>	<b>\$ 431,119</b>

\* The amounts in the sections "Consolidated Statement of Financial Position" and "Consolidated Statements of Activities" are derived from audited financial statements for the 2017 fiscal year, which ran from April 1, 2016, to March 31, 2017. Full financial statements for the year as well as tax forms are available at [www.deathwithdignity.org/about/financials](http://www.deathwithdignity.org/about/financials); hard copies are available at 520 SW 6th Avenue, Suite 1220, Portland, OR 97204. The percentages in the section "How We Use Your Dollars" have been calculated by us and are not part of the audited financial statements.

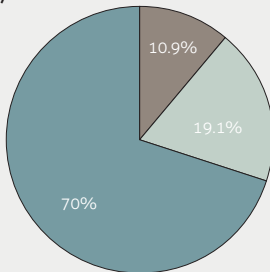


# Consolidated Statements of Activities

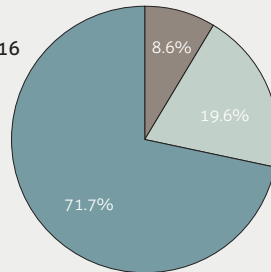
	2017			2016		
	Unrestricted	Temporarily restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Temporarily restricted	Total
<b>REVENUE &amp; SUPPORT</b>						
Contributions	\$ 865,262	\$ 9,432	\$ 874,694	\$ 662,506	\$ 99,555	\$ 762,061
In-kind contributions	\$ 13,897	-	\$ 13,897	\$ 32,364	-	\$ 32,364
Investment income, net	\$ 17,993	-	\$ 17,993	\$ (1,650)	-	\$ (1,650)
Other income	\$ 246	-	246	-	-	-
Net assets released from restrictions:						
Satisfaction of purpose restrictions	\$ 6,952	\$ (6,952)	-	\$ 107,883	\$ (107,883)	-
<b>TOTAL REVENUE &amp; SUPPORT</b>	<b>\$ 904,350</b>	<b>\$ 2,480</b>	<b>\$ 906,830</b>	<b>\$ 801,103</b>	<b>\$ (8,328)</b>	<b>\$ 792,775</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>						
Program services						
Public education	\$ 184,935	-	\$ 184,935	\$ 193,159	-	\$ 193,159
Communication	\$ 179,047	-	\$ 179,047	\$ 91,480	-	\$ 91,480
Oregon Plus One	\$ 191,640	-	\$ 191,640	\$ 253,500	-	\$ 253,500
Total program services	\$ 555,622	-	\$ 555,622	\$ 538,139	-	\$ 538,139
Management and general	\$ 86,652	-	\$ 86,652	\$ 64,576	-	\$ 64,576
Fundraising	\$ 151,373	-	\$ 151,373	\$ 147,330	-	\$ 147,330
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 793,647</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$ 793,647</b>	<b>\$ 750,045</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$ 750,045</b>
Change in net assets	\$ 110,703	\$ 2,480	\$ 113,183	\$ 51,058	\$ (8,328)	\$ 42,730
<b>NET ASSETS</b>						
Beginning of year	\$ 372,897	\$ 1,798	374,695	\$ 321,839	\$ 10,126	331,965
End of year	\$ 483,600	\$ 4,278	\$ 487,878	\$ 372,897	\$ 1,798	\$ 374,695

## How We Use Your Dollars

2017



2016



Program services

Management and administration

Fundraising

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# Back to Our Roots: Oregon at 20 and a Path Forward

Each year brings opportunities to reflect on milestones and celebrate hard-won victories. This November, we commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the landmark law that started it all.

## Oregonians, Courts Decide

On November 8, 1994, Oregon voters approved Measure 16, the Oregon Death with Dignity Act, by a margin of 51 to 49 percent. Almost immediately, we had to defend the statute from a legal challenge that would postpone implementation by three years. In 1997, opponents of the Act introduced another ballot measure that aimed to repeal the law. But Oregonians affirmed the law by an even greater margin, 60 to 40.

Our founding Board member, Eli Stutsman, JD, was the lead author of the Oregon statute and a lead strategist of the campaign to pass the groundbreaking law. He said, "Our early efforts were supported by our knowledge of the practice of medicine, the way we died, and a political skill set capable of breaking through longstanding barriers in law, medicine, and religion."

George Eighmey, our current Board President, was a crucial ally in the

State Legislature. He recalled the 1997 victory, when voters "rejected opponents' fear tactics, giving terminally ill Oregonians the option to legally obtain medication to end their suffering."

Over the next decade, our opponents continued to challenge the law, first in Congress and then in the Supreme Court. Each time we faced possible defeat, our team triumphed.

## Oregon as a Model

The Act gave terminally ill Oregonians the chance to determine the time and manner of their death and established a template for similar laws across the country. Perhaps most importantly, the Act brought to the fore a conversation about death and dying in America that was long overdue.

Our work behind the scenes to educate legislators and build partnerships with diverse stakeholders has helped pass assisted-dying laws in five states and the District of Columbia. We will continue our work to define and grow the Death with Dignity movement for the next 20 years and beyond. ■

# Help Grow the Movement

With your charitable gifts we can ensure all Americans have the freedom to make their end-of-life decisions.

## One-Time or Recurring Gifts

Your gift can be a **one-time contribution**, or you can provide ongoing support to our mission with automatic **recurring monthly or quarterly donations**.

## Memorial Gifts

You can donate **in memory or in honor of someone**, to celebrate the lives of special individuals in a lasting way. At your request, we can notify family members of your thoughtful gift.

## Gifts of Stock or Mutual Funds

Donating **stocks or mutual funds** may provide you a charitable deduction for the fair market value of your gift, along with an exemption from capital gains tax.

## Legacy Gifts

Legacy gifts make an impact beyond your lifetime. You can make a **bequest**, elect one of the **planned gift options** (annuity trust, unitrust, gift annuity), or designate the Death with Dignity National Center as a beneficiary on your **life insurance or retirement plan**.

To donate stock or make a legacy gift, please contact Meike Weyrauch, Director of Leadership Giving at 360.261.8983 or [meike@deathwithdignity.org](mailto:meike@deathwithdignity.org). ■

*“This issue is important to me because of my experiences with family members who suffered needlessly at the end of their lives. I will continue to give generously.”*

—DIANA SCHMERTZ, NEW YORK



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